

Weston Commission for Children and Youth Minutes from the September 19, 2016 Meeting

In attendance: Lynn Phillips, Jeff Drobner, Allison Lisbon, Shara Kolodney, Cathy Minter, Michelle Albright, Charlene Monn, Danny Petty, Juliane Givoni

Meeting called to order at 6:20 pm by Michelle Albright.

General discussion about scheduling

- Members discussed whether the timing (both day and start time) of meetings should be shifted going forward. Due to scheduling conflicts, we will begin meetings at 6:15 going forward.

Program Coordinator Updates

- Summer programs went well and were well attended and received by students and families. Programming started earlier because of school ending earlier. Although the WPS technology camp had low attendance, we ran it in the hopes of building interest for future programming. Other WPS camps such as the reading and theater camp were well attended.
- Fall WOW registration and program start dates are scheduled to begin a week later than in past years to ensure that we could attend the Kindergarten back-to-school nights and introduce our programs. Overall, registration numbers are lower however several of our instructors are willing to run the classes regardless even if that means lower pay. Members discussed what programs are most appealing to children and their families and where we might be losing participants too. Members cited declining enrollment in school and in other activities to indicate that this trend is occurring in other contexts.

Program Director Updates

- Michelle reminded members of the Kevin Breel event scheduled for tomorrow evening. Members discussed how this event had been publicized; Michelle began sharing blasts with all school administrators in August, as well as postings on the WYS FB page, blasts to the WYS database, and on the Moms in Weston and Weston Moms Beyond FB pages. The Forum also ran an article highlighting WYS parenting programs and highlighting Kevin's talk.
- Michelle shared information about parent programs planned for the 2016-2017 school year, as well as Wilton Youth Council's program calendar. Michelle discussed ongoing collaboration with Wilton Youth Council and how they tend to schedule programs well in advance and use Council members to lead promotional efforts.

General discussion about the role of the WYS Director and transitional issues

- Michelle shared the various roles and responsibilities she fulfills as WYS Director and how much of her day/week is spent, as well as program binders that hold materials from meetings and programs from the past three years. Members requested that Michelle create a list of primary contacts & collaborators, as well as suggest priorities for the incoming WYS Director.

Our next meeting will be held Monday October 17th at 5:45 pm. The full Commission will meet from 5:45 – 6:15 to review minutes and hear program updates; this will be followed by a discussion about how best to prioritize the roles and responsibilities of the Youth Services Director going forward. Students and school administrators are welcome to attend just the initial half hour.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Albright